GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:162
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
PROTECTION OF COCONUT TREES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the action taken so far to protect Coconut trees from Coconut Spite, disease affecting the productivity of Coconuts;

(b) whether the Government propose to promote organic farming to prevent such diseases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The action taken by the Government to protect coconut trees from eriophyid mite of coconut is given below:

(a) Coconut Development Board sponsored a research project costing Rs.3.00lakh through Project Directorate of Biological Control (PDBC), Bangalore fordeveloping bio-agents for control of mite through biological measures. A bio- agent called `MYCOHIT` has been developed. This is being tested in the field for its efficacy and bio-safety. The Board has also released Rs.6.65lakhs to PDBC for further research on this aspect;

(b) Awareness campaigns/seminars/group discussions among farmers were organized by Coconut Development Board in association with Central Plantation Crops Research Institute and State Agricultural Universities;

(c) Coconut Development Board has conducted trainings for departmental staffand farmers and developed Website to access information on mite on the net;

(d) An amount of Rs.142.45 lakh has been provided under National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) for research work on coconut mite;

(e) A Steering Committee was constituted to review and coordinate efforts in developing suitable control measures on management of coconut mite. The committee is reviewing the progress periodically and the last meeting was held on 14.6.2002. The committee has recommended holistic approach including improvement of nutrient status, use of botanical and bio-pesticides for managing mite affected coconut gardens.

The central assistance provided during 1998-99 to 2000-2001 through Coconut Development Board, to States for control of coconut mite is given below:-

State	assistance provided (Rupees in Crores)
Kerala	30.09
Karnataka	13.50
Tamil Nadu	10.54
Andhra Pradesh	3.70
Orissa	0.16
Total	57.99

(b) & (c): The Scheme on Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India being implemented by the Coconut Development Board include a component `Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement` under which an incentive of Rs.20,000/- is provided for establishment of organic manuring units. For management of mite affected coconut gardens, holistic approach including improvement of nutrient status and use of botanical and bio-pesticides, such as, neem cake, neem oil mixture and growing of compatible inter/mixed crops are recommended with emphasis on lesser use of pesticides.